Learning Conversation Notes	
Name of Partner: Easter Seals	Date: June 1, 2005
Number of Children Served:	Ages: 0 yr (1), 1 yr (4), 2 yr (8), 3 yr (2), 4 yr (3),
When Served:	Gender: Ethnicity:
September 1, 2004 to Present	10-Male 12 - Caucasian 8-Female 2 - African Amer. 3 – Hispanic 1 – Asian

Conversation Participants: Don Ferretti, Nancy Baggett, Michael Romero, Heidi Kolbe – Facilitator, Judy Marston, Shirley Skadan-Smith, Mary Carroll

Outcomes:

- Parents, preschool teachers, and childcare providers have the knowledge and awareness that assistive technology is available so that they can access the equipment to meet their child's special needs.
- Children are utilizing the AT equipment when needed so they are more independent and interacting with their peers to enhance their development.
- Easter Seals will secure funding to continue this program independent of First
 5 Placer County.

Performance Measures:

- Demographics (number of children broken down by age, gender, ethnicity, and when services were provided)
- Number of Placer County residents with children 0-5 accessing the AT equipment
- Number of trainings provided
 – along with the number and type of attendees
- Stories from parents and providers
- Survey results
- Listing of funds independent of First 5 Placer

What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?

Twelve adults, including occupational therapists, preschool teachers and parents attended the training meeting. Training included use of new technology as well as how to adapt store bought toys for children with special needs. There was also discussion about how and when to introduce items for age appropriate development. Five attendees were preschool teachers who had children with special needs.

The attendees at the training meeting were very hungry for more information. This speaks to the need to raise knowledge and awareness of parents, preschool teachers and providers of children needing AT equipment.

Post training survey indicates the level of knowledge and awareness from the training improved dramatically. For example on a scale of 1-5, most participants indicated a starting knowledge base of 1 or 2 before the training, and ended with a 4 or 5 after the training.

What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes? (Cont'd)

The training portion of the program could be self-sustaining. By working with other programs, Easter Seals can continue to hold training meetings beyond the contract date at minimal expense.

Testimonials indicate:

- The people are appreciative of new information
- There is a need for the awareness of the equipment
- Being able to test the equipment in the home was helpful before the expense of purchasing this equipment

Examples of types of equipment include: therapy balls, bolsters, deep pressure vests, balls, peanut balls, modified strollers, hip helpers, tilting bench, pedia arm wrap, doorway bar and swing, bath chair, creepster crawler, trampoline, walker, and jelly bean switch.

This equipment makes it possible for children with special needs to cognitively develop. In most cases, special needs children are not able to play on their own, so the opportunity to play must be made available to them.

There is a frustration with insurance companies and other programs. Their rules do not allow the flexibility needed to accurately assess the situation in order to provide for the needs of the child

One grant has been received in the amount of \$10,000 from the Frieda B. Runyan

Foundation.

Applied for a \$25,000 grant from San Joaquin County for training and a \$10,000 grant from Yuba County for equipment.

In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

It may be helpful to hold trainings in the evening or on weekends to encourage more participation. Also be open to alternative locations and times to allow for flexibility for participants.

Since these trainings cover all facets of cognitive learning, the training should not be limited to parents or teachers of children with special needs.

At the training, a parent was able to test a piece of equipment she would never have considered. Other parents have also expressed interest in other pieces of equipment once they observed its use.

Develop outreach through preschools in order to increase awareness.

Continue to push for equal access to preschools under the ADA for children with special needs.

Contact Darcy at PCOE Child Development, she coordinates trainings for daycare providers (Easter Seals can provide training to assist with inclusive childcare settings)

Other points that were made during the conversation:

Eight of eighteen children are 2-yr olds. The IDEA states that at age 3 children access services through the school districts.

A transition meeting is held at 33 months of age. This meeting includes all of the child's therapists to determine how to meet the child's needs for the future.

Easter Seals is not getting many referrals from Tahoe or PCOE. Easter Seals staff was given several names of people to contact.

The large lending library approach allows the child to try the equipment at the appropriate developmental time.

Typically, developmental learning windows of opportunity may be smaller for the children with special needs.

Next Steps:

Easter Seals is working on developing methods to get the message out that AT equipment is available through their program

Consider attending the Loomis Health and Safety Fair. Also the First 5 Placer Outcome Faire at the Galleria on October 7, 2005

Keep Easter Seals as a non-funded partner, and keep their information on the First 5 web site

If Easter Seals plans another training in Placer County, coordinate with Don Ferretti to have First 5 Placer assist with the facility and food.